PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA ABDUCTION CONFERENCE

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Introduction

An invitation-only abduction research conference, sponsored by the Fund for UFO Research, was held in College Park, Maryland, on February 3, 1993. The purpose of the conference was two-fold: (1) to present a private, supportive forum for abductees from the region to tell their stories and compare notes; and (2) to educate Fund for UFO Research board members and selected other persons on the nature of the abduction phenomenon by having them interact with "real, live" abductees rather than just reading abduction reports. We intended it to be a mutual learning experience and a consciousness raising experience for some.

A group of 12 abductees from the area agreed to sit on a panel to discuss their experiences. The session was moderated by Richard Hall, assisted by Rob Swiatek. Also at the podium or head table were Budd Hopkins and Board Member Thomas P. Deuley. The tables were arranged in an open U with the podium at the bottom of the U and an audience of observers and support people seated in rows of chairs at the open end of the U. In general, the abductee panel sat to the right of the podium and the panel of questioners sat to the left, so that the two groups (abductees and questioners) were facing each other. Some exceptions were made to accommodate individuals who wished to sit with their spouses or a support person. A number of additional abductees who chose not to be on the panel sat at the questioners' table or in the audience.

To keep the session orderly, both questioners and abductees were required to seek recognition from the chair before speaking. Members of the audience who wished to ask questions also were required to be recognized, and a microphone was passed around by hand. Other Fund Board Members present in addition to Richard Hall, Tom Deuley, and Rob Swiatek, were Don Berliner, John Carlson, Robert L. Hall, Craig Phillips, and Fred Whiting. The audience consisted mainly of spouses, observers (including two mental health professionals), and support persons whose attendance was requested by the abductees.

To ensure privacy and confidentiality news media were excluded. Use of cameras, audiotapes, or videotapes was forbidden. Most of the 4½-hour session was audiotaped by the Fund with the understanding that identities of participants (other than Board Members and known researchers) would remain confidential. The conference was originally limited to 35 people, but grew to about 50 people through word-of-mouth and attendance by a few of Budd Hopkins colleagues and clients from New York City.

In the following excerpts from the transcript of the conference, questioners other than Fund board members or invited researchers are indicated by "Q." All of the abductees have been given pseudonyms to protect their anonymity.

Abductee Survey

As an ice-breaker, and to indicate common ground among the abductees present (most of whom were meeting each other for the first time), the moderator conducted an informal poll. The questions addressed to the 12 abductee panelists and the results follow:

How many of you--

1. Have had a UFO sighting? Answer: 9.

2. Have had odd or weird experiences, a variety of odd happenings, occur to you since childhood or for most of your life? Answer: 10.

3. Have had an episode of missing time? Answer: 9.

4. Have had fragmentary recollections, confused memories, flashbacks, or realistic dreams of bright lights, odd beings, strange environments? Answer: 12.

5. Have felt panic and fear at a particular location for no apparent reason? Answer: 12.

6. Have discovered overnight or suddenly appearing puncture wounds or bruises? Answer: 10.

7. Have had conscious or partial recall of alien encounters? Answer: 11.

8. Have encountered small gray beings with large heads any large dark eyes? Answer: 8.

9. Have encountered other types of beings? Answer: 6.

10. Have experienced objects levitating around the house? Answer: 4.

11. Have had unusual electrical malfunctions in your house or car? Answer: 7.

12. Have had very unusual medical problems or anomalies? Answer: 6.

13. Have had episodes of paralysis or immobility? Answer: 11.

14. Have had strange problems with your telephones (interference, disruptions, noises...)? Answer: 10.

15. Have experienced some form of harassment? Answer: 7.

16. Have had or suspect an out-of-body experience? Answer: 3.

17. Have some kind of recall of being in a cave or underground facility with other people? Answer: 7.

18. Know or suspect other family members of having similar experiences? Answer: 9.

19. Know or recognize a symptom that signals when something is going to happen (perhaps a familiar sound or signal)? Answer: 8.

A number of announcements were made at this point about procedures, and two mental health professionals seated in the audience section were introduced. Then the questioning began, from which excerpts follow.

Memory Recall

Q: My first question basically would be to those that had an experience. Was the experience that you had that you remember outright or was it something that came to you through, uh, psychotherapy?

[The panelists gave a wide range of responses, but in general had experienced at least partial conscious memories; in some cases hypnosis had brought out further details.]

Frank: I've had at least six or seven events like that from start to finish when it was crystal clear and probably thirty or forty other ones where maybe I woke up in the middle of the night where I thought I was having a dream, found myself in a place where I knew I didn't belong....I've had so many crystal clear ones that there's never any doubt in my mind.

Laura: When it happened I didn't know what happened. I knew I had missing time. I was in my vehicle. I woke up driving around the corner, quite fast and barely stayed on the road, and just suddenly came awake in this place, driving, the road...the car moving underneath me. Going around the corner on two wheels. It was so disorienting I threw up....I thought maybe I had a nervous breakdown, I had been daydreaming, maybe fell asleep at the wheel....It wasn't until some time later that I started having flashbacks and more flashbacks and more childhood memories and, uh, they've been multiplying steadily. More memories come back. Consciously and otherwise.

Ann: The one really conscious experience I had that never left my mind, happened when I was in college in [19]72. It never made sense but it was almost like, I never allowed myself to think about it too much....Things would happen after that but each time...I just kinda thought, well, what is that triangular mark? It doesn't hurt. I didn't burn myself with an iron accidentally....It wasn't until 19 years later that I found out information about what UFO

experiences are that I made myself go back and look at the sequence of events and, I had done some meditation and it all came back like that....I [now] remember all the details.

Alice: I think with a lot of us there's a lot of denial because this can't be real, this is strange, this doesn't make sense, you know, so you go into a natural denial of saying, "Oh, just forget it, it was a dream or something." I was forced to face it because of my children [who reported seeing "midgets" in the bedroom at night, and later as young adults recalled "when they used to come all the time."]....You know there's a lot of it that's really confusing. It's a hard thing to deal with....you're going to put some type of denial so that you can remain sane. Otherwise you...you feel like, I'm losing it very, very quickly...if I don't deny this, then I'm gonna, you know, go over the border. I'm gonna be locked away and drugged, sitting looking out a window somewhere.

Barbara: I wish somebody could say that I was crazy....Then I could take a pill and get better. It would go away. I would never have to deal with this again.

Frank: I'd like to say that I never had the support of my family as a child. And it was really hard all those years to face it and I never had anybody really to talk to about it. But my biggest break--for me, it's a kind of win and lose situation--is about three years ago when my daughter started being abducted when she was five years old. So then when she started telling my wife that these things were happening, and then my wife started experiencing things and my other two boys started experiencing things, then the whole family was involved....So after 2½, 3 years of this now, we have regular family discussions about it....We draw pictures. I've got millions of pictures my children have drawn, you know, from their experiences....

Barbara: May I ask you a question?

Frank: Yeah.

Barbara: Do you tell your children not to talk about it with other children?

Frank: Uh, yeah.

Barbara: Well, my little girl made the mistake of telling one of her friends and she wasn't allowed to play with her for a long time....I mean, I can see why, but....

Frank: That is our biggest fear. How we'll be perceived by our neighbors and by, you know, we don't want our children to lose all their friends and everything. And they're pretty good about it, they know when not to talk about it. But we have regular family discussions about it because it's something you just can't hide. It's to the point where you know these things are happening all the time, and what are we supposed to do, tell her it's a dream cause you know that's a lie. That's what my mother and father did with me and I'm not going to do it with them.

Barbara: You can't lie to them.

Q: I'm Peter [last name deleted], the psychotherapist and I've heard my profession pretty much shot down today, pretty severely. Although with good reason. I just want to make a comment or two about that. When someone goes to a therapist, they go to that therapist with an assumption. The assumption is justified, and the assumption is that the therapist will be neutral, objective, accepting, and non-judgmental. That's the way therapists are trained. And I think that most therapists are that way most of the time. But, uh, J. Allen Hynek, who as many of you know was a very influential UFO researcher. Hynek was commenting on the Condon report of the [19]60's, which back in those days was supposed to be the final word on UFO research....So Hynek, commenting on the Condon report, said their approach was UFOs can't exist, therefore they don't. And I'm afraid unfortunately with many therapists you have the same kind of mentality. That your experience can't be legitimate, therefore it isn't....The second problem with therapists is--I know several therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists--and others who do not have this kind of strong bias against your experience, but they are scared to death of their reputation....But the good news is that not all therapists have that mentality....

Harassment

Peter: I'd like to ask a question to anyone. When Richard was going through his survey of questions, he brought up the issue of harassment, being harassed. I'd be very interested in hearing a little bit more about this harassment and who you think's doing the harassing. Thank you.

Ann: Ringing in our ears at night, appliances that will buzz louder until they become really annoying, like the refrigerator, the fluorescent bulbs, or things like that.

Bob: I wanted to say one specific, actual physical thing that happened consciously during the day. I had been experiencing some...going...taking a nap during the day on my day off and feeling paralyzed. And this happened once too often. And I said to my wife [Ann], "That's it. I'm gonna write Budd Hopkins." And I sent him a letter off and at the time I was waiting for the letter [of reply] we were doing some remodeling in our house. And I had the doors and everything all open and, uh, I became aware that my cat was looking out the door and her hair was just about...she looked like one of these Halloween cats. You know, you're wondering "She see a big dog or something?" And I turn around and I had what I guess you'd call an MIB experience, where there was a guy standing there in the door, dark, everything else, very white face, sun glasses. And, I was basically being told that my wife and I had no business delving into subjects like UFOs and everything else....He said, "We want to discuss with you what you and your wife are doing. We don't think it's a good idea."

I'll clean up what I said to him. Basically I said, "Get off of my property, I don't want to see you." And I saw the individual, he had pulled out some sort of ID. Put it out and it looked like a number. It didn't even have a picture on there and he was trying to say that he was, you know, from some sort of official organization. And, you know, I just...I did not accept it and I

said, "Get out!" And he turns around very mechanically, walks to the front and there was this large, black car. Looked like one of your modern Chevy Caprices. The door swings open, he gets in. Nobody opened the door, the door just swung open and he took off. And now what is interesting is, about an hour or so later the mail came and it was a reply from Mr. Hopkins. And I thought, "My God!" So...I called my wife up [at work] and I said, "Well, guess what?" Now I know why this happened." And it was a letter from Mr. Hopkins putting me in touch with Mr. Hall and Mr. Swiatek. So that's harassment.

Mary: I've been harassed all my life by an individual. I don't want to call him Man in Black cause I've never seen him in black. But he definitely is human. He has raped me as a child.... Until recently, I was the only one who had ever seen him. At least I thought I did. I had no support from my mother. But I felt there were several instances where it wasn't an imaginary thing. He was there. I recently had a guest over New Years, at my house, who is another abductee. Several days after New Years we both had an experience. She woke up and she said, "Mary, this man was in the room." And she identified him right down to a T. I never until that point described him in detail to anybody. I don't think I even described him in detail to Budd....She's here [the friend]. She will back me up. We did hypnosis on this, and she's a very good artist. She drew a picture of this person. I attempted to....This man has harassed me all my life. And it was very unnerving to me to have someone else acknowledge this because up until that point, I was the only person who had ever seen him.

Budd Hopkins: I'd like to add something to this. Since I became involved in this. There is also evidence that your mother was aware of who this person was. But it's very important to know that this person operates with the small gray figures and they have shown up together and he can come in to [her] apartment through closed doors.

Mary: He has both qualities, both human and alien qualities. I've seen him float through the wall, too, with me....He has been very violent with me and yet it's almost like he plays good cop, bad cop....I have also been followed by other human-type people who asked me, who have tried to stop me from going up to New York to do hypnosis [and] who physically remove me from hotels and conferences.

Budd Hopkins: First, physically, they seem to be totally human, have to wear glasses and things like that. But, uh, they don't seem to be in any sense military, or CIA; they have no emotions or behave very strangely. Even though they are a hundred percent human, they don't seem to be connected with earth in the fullest sense. Very often...they have appeared along with the UFO occupants....

Mary: When I first took a look at this person's picture, I burst into tears. This is in Budd's house. Because I realized he was a family member. At least he was very related. Budd had then asked me if I had any pictures at that point and I didn't have any of this person. And it wasn't until driving down here I was going through my car, which this person drives a lot, and I saw a graduation picture of his. And I nearly freaked because it basically is an exact replica of what Budd is about to show you.

[Budd Hopkins then passed around drawings of the man made by the two women independently.]

Rob Swiatek: Has anyone else on our panel, I'm curious, had interactions with humans?

Frank: Yes. Through abduction I've seen babies....they're human in appearance and its like a factory, from what I've seen. I mean I know they can mass produce, you know, people. As far as intimidation is concerned, I mean we've had everything in the world happen to us....TV's going off and on in the middle of the night. I had both cars, the electronic ignition go out on it, two minutes apart, and the high voltage on my TV go out all at the same time. So I mean these aren't normal occurrences, maybe one thing happening. We constantly experience things floating around. It's just total intimidation on their part.

Media Treatment

[John Carlson asked the panelists how they felt about popular treatment of the abduction phenomenon, and whether they considered it "good" or "bad."]

Ann: The more publicity, whether it is from a tabloid or just a small little excerpt in a town paper or a special on TV, the more people that see that, the more people I think may have their own memories triggered. And as people realize that there are people willing to help them, that's going to help, I think, mobilize people to acknowledge the phenomenon and hopefully get the media and the people who could maybe do something to acknowledge it also.

Carl: I see an evolution in my...not only in my personal awareness but general evolution in awareness. I mean, for example, by you people. Could this [meeting] have happened ten years ago? Our groups together? And maybe it takes time but over time the reality of these events will unfold, at least to the extent that we're capable of grasping them. And I look forward to this evolution although there is trepidation also, with hope that we're going to learn, we're going to understand more about this and hopefully we can make some good of it. I try to be optimistic about it and I think the media attention, even though some of it is schlocky, is still a positive element simply because it keeps the momentum...the momentum of the exposure going.

Bob: I think that knowledge is probably our best defense. And the more people who realize that it's happening and will accept it, I think that's the first step to our making this stop. Because I really look at this as an attack. Not just on myself but on the rest of us. If they can do this to me, they can do this to anyone else...and I would be surprised if they are not in some way or another....And more and more people need to be aware that this is happening and the people that it is happening to are not nuts.

Budd Hopkins: Of course, I'm a very firm believer in the idea that the more attention the subject receives, at least some kind of respectful attention, then the better off everybody is....I'm certainly trying to do as much as I can in that field, of bringing public attention to this subject.

I think that one of the most important analogies here was first made by Dr. Ron Westrum, sociologist and very, very original thinker on this, when he wrote a paper comparing the information about abductions as coming to light in the same way that the information has come to light about child abuse. And the basic point is that we now know, because of all the publicity on child abuse...all of the media attention...the fact that the whole mental health community is aware of how widespread it is, that it is now something of which we are respectful when we see it happening with children in schools or whatnot. And there's a situation of freedom, really, and safety for children, now, because of the awareness that never existed ten years ago. And I think this has been a net gain for everybody....

Now I'm convinced, based on the statistics and the results of the Roper survey and others, and even our presence here, that this is enormously more widespread, like child abuse. Like child abuse, it's very secret. There's a kind of shame connected with it, but I hope as with the whole situation [of] child abuse, the more attention this receives, the better off everybody in this community will be.

Other Humans Met On-Board

Q: I just wanted to ask a question of the panel of abductees, which is kind of different from what has been asked, but how many of you have felt that in your experiences, when you are in a strange situation, possibly aboard a ship or definitely a strange room, have you felt that you have met a real human being who was also an abductee, that you knew somehow from your childhood, or someone that you met later in life, who later came into play in your life. Or perhaps you've met somebody who you feel is a real human being that has shared this experience [and who] you have yet to meet [in "real life."]

Sarah: Just last week, this is weird. OK. This is really weird. Just last week I was in [a bookstore] and a woman I never saw before in my life goes to the book counter to get a book and I was just looking at the books. We both walked there at the same time. And she looked at me, and we didn't even know each other. And she said, "What book up here do you like?" I don't read that much, and I said, "I don't know." And all of a sudden we started talking and she started showing me scars on her legs [like] I have. And she looked at me and the two of us said, "Well, maybe we were supposed to meet." I mean, and I haven't seen her since. It just happened. We talked for about 45 minutes. She had this...similar experiences in her house that I had....

Alice: I'm looking for "Jean."

Q: Why?

Alice: Because we met. We spent--it seemed like--a month together. A length of time together. And we agreed, we made...we said, "Remember me, remember me when we get back, lets find each other." We made a pact to find each other. And I remember that. I know

approximately what she looks like, approximate age, and I think she's a nurse but not working. She's a housemother, but a nurse by training. And I'm not sure but I think there's a possibility she lives in Utah. Her name is Jean [last name deleted]. And we spent time together and I feel like she's a sister, you know. And we made a pact to find each other, and I would love to some day find her.

Q: From where? I'm sorry.

Alice: We met while we were abducted. We were both abducted at...I don't know where we were. [Laughter] I don't know where we were. We were...it's...it seems even stranger because it seems that we had been together living in a house or living in a location, you know, it seemed like a month. Because I asked them, they said "It's time for you to go back." And I said, "Hasn't my family...I've been gone so long, won't they have...won't they have been missing me?" And I was told, "No. Your time is different than our time and they won't know you've been gone....I was told our time was different and nobody missed me. [Laughter] But we were there. With all the crazy things, it seemed like Jean and I were gardening. We were staying in this location and we were growing things. Working in a garden. And we really had quite a lot of fun together. [Laughter]

Dorothy: The person I am looking for is named Brian [last name deleted]. I have no idea where he is, who he is, what he does now. I met him the first time probably while I was eleven. I saw him during an abduction last year. He's around. I don't know where he is. He's been in several of the abductions that I've been in.

Laura: For some of you who may or may not know Dorothy and I... [Explains their professional and personal relationship.] She's also my very best friend. We discovered, not too long ago, within the year, that we had known each other from the time when we were very young children, four or five years old...

Dorothy: No, I was one and a half.

Laura: You were one and a half, I was four. [Laughter] We didn't know this. I mean we had... thought we had just met in 1987 for the first time. Although we felt like we'd known each other before. It was a very strange feeling when we first met, going "I know you from somewhere. Where do we know each other." We couldn't come up with any place where we might have met previously. We had an instant rapport. We seemed to know a lot about how the other person felt, how...what you were thinking, we'd say the same things at the same time, had the same ideas about things, had the same reactions to things. Then to find out that we had...we'd spent a great deal of our young childhood together, in the presence of...

Dorothy: Little gray shits.

Laura: Little gray shits. [Laughter] And others. Been to different places together. And I was basically her overseer or baby sitter. And, she was a brat....We were also brought together

on earth at some place, at some points we can't recognize, can't identify. But we were together maybe in a picnic area, talking to each other.

Budd Hopkins: [Describes another instance of two people who met during an abduction.] But I must say that, in many, many cases I've been looking into in the past year, year and a half, this particular phenomenon where people being brought together when they're children as if part of the study that the UFO occupants are engaging in is a study of how relationships form.

Carl: I'm going to say that perhaps it is not as much that they are studying relationships as they are manipulating them. Constructing them.

Budd Hopkins: Right. That all is probably part of the same collection of things. Hard to know. I just violated one of my own First Rules, which is never to speculate authoritatively on alien intentions. [Laughter]

Changes in Beliefs

Q: I had a question that's kind of a shift away from what we're talking about now. But it's something that interests me a lot in terms of...I'd like to hear from some of you how this has changed your world view or your religious beliefs. Any comments on that?

Flora: [Visiting abductee from Midwest, not on panel] I don't believe in the same way that I did, when the realization hit me....I have changed from a...not a devout but from a Christian belief to almost a Jewish belief. And I don't know why.

Frank: I think it's important to have something to believe in and it's brought me closer to God, because of the fact if you just believe that you're always going to be a victim of these people, then you have no recourse and there's no way you can fight back. Then you're really alone in the world. But if you feel like God's on your side or you feel like there's strength in numbers...you just got to have something to grab ahold of to fight back with. And I think it's important for everybody to have that.

Mary: Unfortunately, I've tried to have some type of faith but my faith has pretty much been bled dry....I grew up in a semi-agnostic house. I'm pretty much empty. I guess after seeing all the horrors that I've seen I think how can...I guess that's the way it has changed me. I mean it's fine for other people but I just...when I go into a church, I don't feel anything anymore.

Frank: I think it's their intimidation that wants to turn you against God. Because it's not God that's doing this.

Mary: No, it's not turning me against God. I'm just not feeling anything.

Frank: Well...

Alice: I think probably of anybody here, I was...I am probably the strongest of Christians and the strongest of believers, having been in a full-time ministry in my life working with young people. If the Bible says it, I believe it. That settles it. If the Bible were to...if you show me there are no alien beings, there are no other people other than people here on earth, if I were to read that, that would settle it, and I would say I'm crazy or its demonic or whatever. At this point in time, I pray daily for God to open my eyes both spiritually and physically to see and understand what the hell is going on. Because it's confusing. I don't know how to put it in God's respect. I've asked God for answers, and I don't understand....I don't understand how and why they are able to do the things that they do to us and get away with it with my God....I cannot place this. I do not understand this. I will easily accept that it's demonic, I'll easily accept that it's a mental problem, that we all have the same disease and we need to find a drug for it. Because I can't come up with any other answers.

Sarah: I know there is a God with this, and I'm very confused too. I'm trying to put it together and it's just, I know that God knows that I have this and I know that God is not going to let it hurt me. And when it's time for it to leave it will leave, but I don't know....Whatever this is, I have to go through it for something at the end of, say, the rainbow. I have no idea. I just know there's something there for me to go through this.

Frequency of Abductions

Q: I have a question on the frequency of these abductions. Is it happening on a weekly basis, monthly, or...bi-annually?

Bob: For myself I can go as long as maybe a month. If I'm lucky, two months that I get a good night's sleep. And then there are times that it seems like every night you're going through something. It's cyclical.

Sarah: I didn't think I was being abducted since last April. [Describes frequent episodes of paralysis at night and waking up with bruises and scratches.] So I'm starting to realize now that I am still being abducted but I have no memory of it at all. Nothing.

Artistic Ability

Q: Do any of you have artistic abilities, like painting, sketching? Or musical abilities? [A number of panelists raised their hands.]

Budd Hopkins: If you ask the other side of the room the same questions, I don't know what you'd get over here.

Richard Hall: Let's do that as a control study here. How about people on this side? Do you have artistic abilities? [A number of members of the questioners panel raised their hands.]

[General laughter]

Budd Hopkins: Incidentally, I just want to say one thing. There may be a very artificial distinction here between the two sides of the table. Just in general. When we say the experiencers are all lined up over here, I'm not so sure about that.

Richard Hall: No, some are lined up in the back too. We know that.

Information Obtained During Abductions

Alice: [In answer to an earlier question about information obtained on-board] I ask so many questions, I have some memories of getting a great deal of response from them. They've carried on long, detailed conversations with me and, maybe just to get me off their back...they've answered a lot of my questions. A lot of the things they told me are mathematical and scientific things that just shzooop, right over my head. And I kept telling them I don't understand it. But I asked them about their travel. I said I don't understand how you travel so fast and the time change and they explained that to me. I don't remember right now. Under hypnosis I explained it somewhat, the best I could with very limited knowledge. But...and they gave to me a word that they call their travel. And I cannot for the life of me at this moment remember what it was. Something like ***V...***, ***V-tran***, *or* ***V-something***. *But they were explaining to me their mathematical thing or how they travel and time changes. And I did not understand it, and yet there was a little bit of understanding, you know.*

Bob: I recall as a child being shown a screen and given this crystal-like cube to hold. And if you held it you'd get like different things. He said, "If you touch it this way, you'll get to see dinosaurs." This was great because it was something I just loved....It was back in the late 50's and I'm looking at something and I'm saying, "Oh no, they look more like birds. That's not the way dinosaurs look." So I gave it back and said, "Now this is stupid," because I know what dinosaurs look like because I study about them. I read all these books, and if you look at what our scientists have come up with after they rethought the whole thing [apparent kinship between dinosaurs and birds], it's interesting.

Q: [Abductee in audience] I wanted to ask everybody else...In a number of my experiences situations of great violence have taken place, and a lot of destruction and whatnot. I wanted to know if other people have been placed in a position, if great earth changes do come about, of actually choosing who goes and who stays? This is something that I've been battling with for years. And, it's like someone is asking me to make this choice. And I have said, "I will not choose. I refuse to choose. Every human life is important." Has anybody else experienced anything like this?

Carl: I've had something like that often asked, not my choice but what I would have them do in regard to these circumstances. You know, the various complex problems....And like you, I struggled enormously too because of...it's...I don't know what more to say.

Underground Gatherings

Craig Phillips: I'd like to put this question to those who've been in a large chamber and seen a large number of people together. And I understand, at least in one case, the people were unclothed. Now, did these people...were they a cross section of humanity? Afro-Americans, Orientals, Asiatics, uh, Caucasians, or were they more like a select group from North America? ....In other words, were there a lot of different types of people, racially, represented?

Mary: With me, yes, both racially and, I felt people were from all over and also of all ages and also from all different types of daily activity. There were people in nightgowns, people in formal wear, like it was...people in suits, people from different time zones and put 'em all into this place. You know, there were people without clothes, people with clothes.

Carl: I would second that.

Dorothy: The one time I remember it most of the people I saw there were white. Although there were a lot of different European backgrounds. There was only one black man there. There were no Orientals or Asians that I would recognize. But again, I was there in my nightgown. A friend of mine who lives in Cincinnati was there in jogging clothes. Another person I know was there in a formal suit. Several people that I know locally were also there with their children. So, and...there were naked people as well. And it was just this whole mixture of people.

Craig Phillips: What was their collective demeanor? It sounds almost like they're people being rounded up at, uh, at a concentration camp. But were they sort of zombie-like or were they...?

Dorothy: Some were, some weren't. There were people, you know, cowering in the back of the room...just totally frightened out of their minds. There were other people just sort of standing there like statues. I was running around. I hadn't seen some of these people in ten, twenty years, and I thought it was neat. And so we were having great conversations. Then we saw people we saw every day and said, "Hey, how are ya. I'm gonna go over and see these people." So, you know, it was a real mixture of people getting to know each other and finding old friends, and then people just completely zonked out.

Carl: There have been a couple of occasions where I've been under similar circumstances. I'm not in a massive group of people, but a small group of people in a medium-size room and in what would best be described as a cocktail party situation. People of various forms of dress, interacting socially. Having a drink. In the same room or off to the side there may be a couple or three, four aliens sitting at panels or doing what they are doing. On one of these occasions, when I became unruly as I was trying to get answers from one of the aliens, I was subdued, paralyzed, and removed from the premises. But I mingled with the crowd and, like Dorothy was saying, seeing friends and acquaintances.

Dealing With Medical Problems

[This dialogue followed a brief discussion of physical evidence, implants, medical problems, and obtaining proof or documentation.]

Richard Hall: I know from talking to some of you that part of the problem in just going to your regular doctor is that, "Hey doc, I just had this weird thing. Beings walking through the wall and everything, and they did this to me." Would some of you like to comment on how you approach your doctors and what you say to them? I know Sarah can talk about that.

Sarah: Last Monday I went to my doctor, the family doctor, and oh my God....He said, "Sarah, you are different than you were last year."...I'm telling him about the abduction, and this man is sweating in the chair. I mean, he's sitting in the chair and he's sweating. And he looked so scared, and I said,"What the hell are <u>you</u> afraid of? [Laughter]...I wanted to get an MRI done. And so he said "OK." Then he's thinking, "What neurologist can I send you to and tell them what we're looking for without them thinking you're crazy?" He just scheduled the test himself and the radiologist in the hospital read it. And my brain is 100% normal. It doesn't even have a brain disease to cause delusional thoughts.

Laura: Talking about scaring a doctor half to death. Dorothy and I had been experiencing unusual changes in vision. We decided that the best thing to do was certainly not go to the same eye doctor. To go to separate eye doctors, even though we were basically having the same problems with changing vision. You wake up one morning and you see 20-20. We both wear contacts and have similar eyesight. We had such drastic changes that when I went in to see my eye doctor after Dorothy had already seen hers and was given periodic changes in diagnosis, which went on and on and on, and [then] I went to mine.

My doctor was telling me that my eyes are doing pretty well, and "Certainly these eye glasses you have now are too strong. We need to lessen your prescription. Uh, what's this? Why do you have corrective lenses for astigmatism when you don't have astigmatism?" I said, "Of course I have astigmatism, I've had astigmatism for years." He said, "Well, it doesn't go away. It gets worse with age. It does not go away." They couldn't find traces of astigmatism or even having had it. I had my...the prescription of my lenses changed six times in three months before I got something I could tolerate. They're still not quite right, but I can tolerate them.

A couple days...a couple weeks ago I woke up with a tremendous earache. It was a very strong, vicious pain when it first hit me. It literally threw me out of bed. It was horrible pain. A couple days after that, or a couple of hours after that, the throbbing continued until I decided to...the next day I needed to see an ear, nose, and throat specialist. Found one. Went in to see him the same day. I explained to him, you know, when this took place. This was also the night of an event that took place, although I don't really have any conscious memories of what actually happened during that event. I had other scars and knew something had happened. I didn't want to tell him that, certainly. So I explained that, you know, that I had woke up with this horrible earache and thought I had better have it checked. And he did examine the ear and he said that

I had a punctured ear drum, about the size of a needle had ruptured the ear drum. "That certainly would have been horrible pain, uh, why were you cleaning your ears with bobby pins?" And I said, "I don't clean my ears with bobby pins!" And he said, "You had to puncture this yourself, it doesn't happen spontaneously. Are you a swimmer?" "No. There's no place to swim in the winter time around where I am." He said, "Obviously this did not happen spontaneously. You had to have done something to cause this rupture in your ear." And I continued to deny it but I didn't want to tell him anything else. He finally shook his head and the last thing he said when I went out...he cleaned the ear and gave me medication for it and explained to report back to him should anything change. The last thing he said when I went out the door was, "Now, don't forget. Don't clean your ears with bobby pins."

Dorothy: Let me just add one more thing to that. Unfortunately, my brother also experienced a punctured ear drum right about the same time, same night. [All three live in the same house.]

Mary: One thing I found out before this was happening to me. I was living in Argentina for a couple of months. I woke up one morning with this swollen foot, and it was to the point where I couldn't walk on it. And because I hadn't thought that I had broken it, I continued walking on it. And by the time I went home, about a month later, I couldn't fit any of my shoes. I couldn't walk on it. I had to go through Buenos Aires, you know, with my suitcases, with my foot. I can't even describe the pain I was going through. And when I got off the plane my father said, "What are you doing walking on that broken foot? How did it happen?" I said, "It didn't. I woke up one morning, and we [she and her father] went right to the hospital. And he said, "You have to know how you broke your foot." And I said, "I don't." And we X-rayed it and I had a huge cast on it, my leg...my entire leg, because I had walked on it for so long. And he decided it was because I walked too much. [Laughter] And he's a doctor, by the way.

Mass Abductions

Richard Hall: Okay. Budd has a question for the panel here.

Budd Hopkins: Evelyn [abductee from NYC area sitting in audience] has had certain memories of being in a giant space, UFO, or whatever you want to call it, with many, many normal humans, abductees, in lines, going up some escalator-type structure and so forth. And, two of the people in our support group she recognizes from being in that space, and one man who she really doesn't know very well. She just called him one day and blurted out, "You have a scar on your left hip." Which scared him to death because he has a very...showed me he has a very long scar where a bone graft operation was done. And of course it would be under the waist band of underwear and so on. And everyone on the ship was unclothed. She also spotted and had a conversation with another female abductee who is in the support group and she described under hypnosis the woman having a very big abdominal scar, because I ask these questions. In fact, the woman had had a bladder operation and has such a scar.

So my question is...does anybody here have any vague sense of being in a large place,

let's say a ship, or perhaps some chamber, underground or whatever, with a lot of other people, on a very, very large scale as if many, many people are being processed together. I'm curious how many people feel that they've...yeah, show of hands. It's fairly high....So these are all things coming to light. I don't know whether they are new experiences or whether they are a new development in the phenomenon, and we're just finding out about them now. But this kind of mass abduction situation is...

Voice: May I ask if they have a large rotating area associated with the large room...a huge rotating area where the person is in one compartment...

Alice: Yes. Yes, I've seen that. And there was a lot of people, there was a lot of people. And they kept taking them to this compartment and I told this other person I was with, "Don't go in there and don't drink it." Because they were going to make them drink something. And I said...I was trying to stop them from drinking. And I was trying to stop everybody. Trying to organize this group and nobody would listen to me. [Laughter] And, you know, I'm the only sane one there. They're like a bunch of idiots, they're zombies, you know. [Laughter] They're like obedient little soldiers, you know, and I'm saying, "Don't you realize, get your act together." But I remember that area, and I remember that being sitting behind...like behind a desk and one at a time you come in and you drink this stuff, and then they take you out. And I'm going, "Don't go in there! Don't go in there! Don't drink it! Don't drink it!"

Sarah: Were there couches in there?

Alice: No. It was like sitting behind a desk. It was like...it was like going in to the doctor's office and getting your medicine, you know....It's a flash, a moment. And I remember just trying to stop another person, one of my family members, saying "Don't go in there and don't drink it. Don't drink it." And the family member was a zombie. It was like they didn't pay me any attention.

Good and Bad Experiences

Q: Have all the experiences been things that...totally things that frighten you, that you think are dangerous, and is there any kind of good feeling about anything at all, even an event, not an entire thing, or was it all fear and anger?

Dorothy: Yeah. I find that I get a real kick out of flying. I...I love to fly, you know. I play Superman and do that. A real kick out of moving without walking. And every time it happens it's like a brand new thing, but it's such a neat experience.

Voice: It is.

Dorothy: I just get a real kick out of that.

Carl: [It's like] you'd get after a visit to the doctor and they jab you and give you a

lollipop and send you home, and it makes you feel better. On some of those occasions it felt [like] some kind of chemical stimulation of my own brain that filled me with a rushing, wonderful, warm, cozy sensation like everything's okay now. In addition to that, also, some humans who have come to comfort me and some aliens who have come to ...you know, have put their hand on my forehead. "It's okay Carl, you're going to be all right. Everything's all right." And that had a great effect just as it does [on] anyone.

Flora: I've had some very...some rather benign experiences. One is standing with my hands on either side like on a window casing, looking out and looking down, and seeing a man and a woman on either side of a room with...on ladders. But they are looking back at me...and there's these two little jobbies in front of me with their pear-shaped heads and, uh, I still don't...I mean, these are benign flashbacks. But the fact still remains that I think it's malevolent that...they did take me someplace against my will and without my permission. And as to real horrific remembrances, I do not have any as yet. But every time I turn around, I'm having another.

Effects on Animals

Fanny Phillips: I wanted to ask what reactions, if any, you all have observed on the part of household animals, yard animals?

Frank: Well, one night we experienced the TV set going off by itself. The stereo going off and on by itself. I saw a little gray person walking down the hall. Next day one of her parakeets was dead. And these same instances happened about a week later and another parakeet died.

Fanny Phillips: Was there any agitation on the part of the parakeets that you were aware of?

Frank: No, uh-uh. It's just like when the TV set started going off and on, electronic things started happening, we could hear the parakeets start rustling around downstairs. She checked up on them, they were fine. Next morning the first one was dead....

Laura: We have two dogs of mongrel variety. They sometimes...well, in one particular instance the younger dog, smaller dog, came down the stairs in a rush, cowering underneath my chair where I was sitting. Just absolutely terrified for no apparent reason. In another incident, and this is the only memory I have of this incident, is remembering the dog running through the house squealing, crying, screaming at the top of her lungs. It sounded like a person in pain, a person in agony. I never heard a dog do this before. Tore through the house, down the stairs, through the kitchen to the basement and hid....

A couple of weeks ago I tried to wake up other members of the household when I knew something was happening, had poltergeist activity and so forth. I knew something was going on. I tried to wake up the other members of the household. I could not wake them up. I felt certainly

I could get the dogs up, because this has never been a problem. I went in to try and get the dogs up, because they sleep in the laundry room at night to keep them out of everybody's bed and off the furniture. I could not wake the dogs up. It was like they were dead. I mean, I couldn't see them breathing. I could...there was no motion. There was no moving, eyelids. There was no running in place, deer chasing. The only way I would be able to know they were alive would be to put my hand right over the nose so that I could actually feel breath on my hand. There was no motion or movement at all.

Fanny Phillips: How were they the next morning?

Laura: After the event was over, they awoke...they were immediately scratching at the door to get out, screaming, crying. And everyone in the house woke up at the same time, not aware that I had tried to awaken them to the point that I had pulled Dorothy's sister out of bed by her feet and taken all the covers off, and she woke up half way out of bed and couldn't figure out what had happened to her. Had no memory of it.

Growing Awareness

[The following dialogue grew out of a discussion about public awareness and acceptance of abduction reports and how much of this was due to actions by the aliens or other factors.]

Budd Hopkins: The whole process has nothing to do with proof or evidence or anything like that. It has to do with a certain kind of shift that takes place inside a person's spirit that they recognize that the world is not as solid in the way they had thought it was all of these years of our lives....I think minds are being slowly and internally changed by each one of us facing this material as time goes on regardless of what the aliens do....It definitely seems to me that because this is happening on such a huge scale to more and more people, more and more people are suddenly shifting into the idea that this is real and it is affecting us. And, if you talk to any young people about this, kids who are teenagers or in their early twenties, the degree of natural acceptance is amazing, to all of this material. It seems to me, slowly but surely, by some method of osmosis or whatnot, society is really shifting regardless of what the aliens are doing or not doing. It isn't that they press a button and that brings so many more people into a position of accepting the reality of this whole business....I think things are changing in a remarkable way.

John Carlson: Budd, the impression I'm drawing from this is that they don't have complete and total control of the outcome of things that go on though.

Budd Hopkins: I suspect that's true. I think that our idea of alien omnipotence is probably grossly exaggerated. [Tells anecdote about Government cover-up paranoia among people who think the Government is able to keep close tabs on all abductees and investigators, tap all of their phones, and control the evidence.] They absolutely cannot do that. The leaks are just all over the place, and I don't think the aliens are 100% efficient at this either. So we have a kind of a leaky system on both sides. But essentially human beings are changing because of their own

internal recognition of the reality of this, not because of alien demonstration or Government leaks. It's happening internally and I think it's quite amazing.

Carl: But wouldn't you agree that the aliens are contributing, perhaps selectively though, but deliberately to exposing themselves to us? They're making themselves more visible in a very gradual way, perhaps?

Budd Hopkins: That again is assuming that there's a careful plan and everything is under control. And I don't think that's really the case.

Carl: Well, not necessarily. But perhaps they are without a careful plan allowing themselves to become visible. At least I felt in terms of my personal relations with them that this has been a growing process and they have in a sense made me more aware of themselves over time. I mean, they certainly could have left me oblivious to all of it if they had wanted to.

Budd Hopkins: Well, I think of my own role in this. Obviously, I think if they had wanted me to keep my mouth shut they could have done that a thousand ways years and years ago. But I think that probably one of the basic things to learn is that the only true universal law that emerges from this is Murphy's Law, and so with aliens things go wrong too....I think the scale of this is increasing. I think that there is probably an internal agenda that will [add] momentum to the alien activity which we really don't understand....

Conclusions and Comments

Except for a brief break for refreshments in mid-afternoon, the dialogue went on nonstop and could easily have continued for a longer period of time if the meeting room had not been scheduled for another use which required us to vacate it. At no time was there a lull, or a lack of questions or comments. The abductees obviously were willing and eager to talk about their experiences under the conditions, and the investigators and other participants asked numerous questions. Clearly, the conference served a cathartic purpose for the abductees and provided a supportive forum for information exchange and discussion. At the same time, it was a genuine learning experience for the investigators and observers.

How typical were the stories of the Washington, D.C., area abductees? The 1992 Time-Life book Alien Encounters lists the following signs or symptoms as being common to purported UFO abductees:

- Missing time.
- Fragmentary recollection of odd lights and beings.
- Irrational terror at particular sites or to depictions of UFOs and alien encounters.

- Nighttime disorders and troublesome dreams, including numbness and paralysis.

- Spots of blood on the bedclothes.

- Puzzling marks and wounds on the body.

As the excerpts of the conference dialogue indicate, this group of abductees has experienced virtually all of the features reported by the Time-Life researchers as well as other common features not mentioned in the Time-Life book but established by researchers Eddie Bullard, Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs, Raymond Fowler, and others. Among the other features are:

- A long family history of anomalous events.

- Flashbacks typical of post-traumatic stress

- Human or human-like beings seen along with aliens

- Environmental effects, including electrical failures of vehicles and appliances and reactions by animals.

Their reports clearly support the notion that there is a universal abduction phenomenon as defined by its recurring features, and that it has had a profound effect on those who have experienced it. Furthermore, no adequate theory exists in the behavioral sciences to account for the phenomenon in terms of being some kind of psychological or social aberration that is familiar to experts in those fields. The universality and consistency of the reports suggest the need for extensive and well-funded research to seek some meaningful answers.

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